

URBAN/MUNICIPAL

CAZONER 59

81 577

A Strategy
Toward a Watershed Plan
for the
Hamilton Region Conservation Authority



Prepared by: Ken Dakin
Sue Dueckman
Presented by: Robert W. Chrystian

Ancaster, Ontario
June 4, 1981

"A Strategy Toward a Watershed Plan
for the
Hamilton Region Conservation Authority"

In order for the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority to formally commence its watershed planning program, it is necessary that a planning strategy be submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources for approval. The balance of this report describes the planning strategy recommended by the Conservation Authority staff for submission to the Ministry of Natural Resources.

1.0 Introduction

For the purpose of providing a comprehensive introduction to the Watershed Plan, a rationale for watershed planning and a brief outline of the planning approach will be provided.

2.0 Authority Background and Legislation

The history of the Authority, its formation and growth will be outlined and will include a delineation of the area of Authority jurisdiction. A broad overview of the planning area will be provided including a general description of the watershed, its boundaries and its location within Southern Ontario.

Further within this section, the legislative basis, the primary function and the main goals and objectives of the Authority will be presented. The preliminary goals of each Authority program, as appended to this report, will be outlined, while the objectives for the programs will be added during the planning process as more information is collected.

A brief description of the policies and regulations of other resource management agencies as they apply to the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority will be provided.

3.0 Summary and Recommendations

4.0 Resource Inventory

The purpose of the resource inventory is to provide an effective information base for subsequent stages of the planning process. It will include data on the physical resources of the watershed as follows:

physical land base
water resources
forestry and agriculture
fish and wildlife resources
cultural and historical features
outdoor recreation facilities
urbanization

A cursory overview of the watershed resource base will be provided within the Watershed Plan document, however, a detailed inventory will be retained in a data bank for reference purposes.

5.0 User Market Analysis

Once the inventory is complete, it will be necessary to determine, through an analysis of user market, the demand trends affecting the resources within the watershed.

6.0 Resource Management Problems

This stage will involve identification of present resource problems and issues derived from the inventory and user market analysis. Trends in resource utilization which, at a future date, may result in resource problems, will also be identified.

7.0 Present Programs and Projects

This section focuses on a general overview of the programs and projects of the Conservation Authority undertaken to effect the management of the watershed's resources to date.

An inventory and general description of Authority land holdings will be provided, including an outline of the primary functions of each holding. Also included will be a description of all water management projects conducted by the Authority together with the background and purpose of each project. Special projects undertaken by the Authority for reasons other than water management will be discussed.

Consultation with other resource management agencies will determine how their programs and policies relate to those of the Authority.

8.0 Resource Management Requirements

It will be necessary in this section to evaluate existing programs of the Authority and other agencies to determine their ability to satisfy present resource problems. Potential resource management needs can then be identified and classified under the following sections:

Strategy Toward Watershed Plan

June 4, 1981

water management
land management
fish and wildlife
recreation and history
conservation education
special areas (i.e. Niagara Escarpment and
Waterfront)

A re-examination of the Authority's original goals at this point would provide the direction needed to continue the planning process.

9.0 Alternative Projects and Programs

Considering the above problems and goals, alternative resource management projects and programs for the watershed will be identified. Some alternatives may be discarded intuitively, while others may be subjected to a review process where each alternative will be evaluated, taking into consideration benefits and costs, engineering, feasibility, environmental effects and other social factors. Further inventory or technical research may be required and in some cases, a final decision may not be made on the viability of an alternative until preliminary engineering reports have been completed where required. The potentially viable projects and programs will then be ranked, on a priority basis, to reflect the preferred combination of alternatives that will meet the resource management needs and goals for the watershed. These alternatives will then serve as objectives for Authority programs.

10.0 The Watershed Plan

Using the preferred management strategy selected from the alternatives, the Watershed Plan will identify the activities to be undertaken by the Authority in the foreseeable future to meet its management goals. It will be composed of a number of component programs which, in some cases, may be undertaken jointly with other agencies to meet mutual needs. A preliminary plan will be subjected to review by affected agencies and individuals to ensure that all interests will be addressed during the decision making process. The Watershed Plan will then be finalized to serve as a guiding document for future programs, projects and undertakings of the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority and affected agencies.

11.0 References and Appendices

Appendix

Preliminary Goals for Watershed Resources Management

In order that the watershed planning program may be initiated, it is necessary to identify the resource management interests of the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority. In this connection, Conservation Authority staff has identified the following preliminary goals which stem from the resources management, conservation education and recreation components of the Conservation Authority's mandate.

Authority Goal

To establish and undertake programs to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of the renewable natural resources within the area of jurisdiction of the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority for the benefit of the people of the Region and the people of the Province of Ontario.

Authority Objective

To establish and implement a watershed conservation management plan based on sound technical and financial principles and specific goals in the management areas of water, land use, conservation education, fish and wildlife, recreation and history.

Water

To undertake a comprehensive program of water management in order to minimize flood damage, augment low flow and improve water quality.

Land Use

To ensure the conservation and improvement of natural renewable land resources within the watershed and to ensure that sound environmental planning principles are considered in the development and use of these resources.

Conservation Education

To promote an awareness of conservation of natural renewable resources, the principles of natural resources management and the role of the Conservation Authority in resources management within the watershed.

Strategy Toward Watershed Plan

June 4, 1981

Fish and Wildlife

To ensure the conservation and wise management of fish and wildlife resources within the watershed.

Recreation and History

To provide a broad range of recreational opportunities and, where appropriate, to preserve or enhance historical features within the watershed.

Special Areas

a) Niagara Escarpment

To assist the Province of Ontario and the area municipalities in maintaining the Niagara Escarpment and the land in its vicinity within the watershed as a continuous natural environment and ensuring that only such development occurs as is compatible with that natural environment.

b) Waterfront (Lake Ontario and Hamilton Harbour)

To assist the area municipalities in implementing co-ordinated strategies for the improvement and wise use of shore lands and to promote erosion control work, improved water quality and recreational access and to ensure that all developments are in conformity with acceptable planning strategies.

Staff Recommendation

THAT the Executive Committee of the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority adopts the Watershed Plan strategy contained in the staff report entitled "A Strategy Toward a Watershed Plan for the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority", and authorizes staff to forward same to the Ministry of Natural Resources for approval, and further

THAT the Executive Committee of the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority adopts the "Preliminary Goals of Watershed Resources Management" as appended to the above-noted report.

HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 2022 21335828 2

DUO-TANG
51260
MADE IN CHINA